

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

CH/734
27 September 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + General Assembly hears addresses by Amir of Kuwait, Presidents of Maldives, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Colombia and Namibia. Prime Minister of Norway among other speakers in Assembly.
- + Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group by two months, until 30 November.
- + World Summit for Children, with 71 Heads of State or Government participating, to be held at Headquarters this weekend. Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund and Under-Secretary-General for Public Information brief correspondents on arrangements.

Addressing the dominating issue before the Assembly's forty-fifth session -- the Iraqi invasion of his country -- the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, today told the Assembly that the fate of a people, of a nation, was in its hands. Iraq's aggression against his country had been part of a scheme to seize the entire State by force despite internationally recognized agreements between the two countries. Now rape, terror and torture ruled the day in Kuwait and there were daily reports of massacres, looting and destruction of State assets and individual property.

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives referred to the growing danger presented by mercenaries to small States, and said the mechanisms envisaged by the Charter to assist them in that area were inadequate.

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of Nicaragua said her country was turning the United Nations dream of "guns into plowshares" into reality. The United Nations-supervised elections in her country, on 25 February, had marked a "grand moment" in Nicaraguan history. She dreamed, she said, of a unified, demilitarized Central America living in liberty and engaged in a permanent dialogue, of a Central America in progress. The "great revolution of non-violence" had begun.

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The President of Bangladesh, Hussain Munanmad Ershad, called for dialogue divorced from ideology and said co-operation based on consent between the industrial and developing nations should be supported. He noted that several hundred thousand expatriates were stranded in the Gulf region, and paid tribute to neighbouring countries which had rendered unstinting assistance. Recent events had demonstrated that the roots of international conflict lay in economic causes.

President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia said that each time a Colombian leader addressed the Assembly, he usually read out a list of important officials who had lost their lives to drug traffickers, followed by a call to action by the international community against the drug scourge. Suffice it to say today that the list was "longer and bloodier than ever", and included three Presidential candidates. Colombia had repeatedly stressed concern over the traffic in arms and drugs. Recently, violence had lingered at the door of every Colombian, but life and hope had been greater. The response to violence had been to vote in favour of a democratic and peaceful country. Sooner or later, drug trafficking would be destroyed. However, if the international community did not make sacrifices similar to those made by Colombia, it would never be free of the scourge. In less than a month, the world had sent an army halfway across the world to stop aggression. Similar results could be had, if there was similar will to stop drug trafficking.

The President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, said that in newly independent Namibia, the focus was now on nation-building. His Government was determined to face the challenges in the fields of agriculture, rural development, education, health care, job creation and human resource development. Being one of the world's poorest countries, Namibia sought least-developed-country status, and the recent Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries had recommended to the Assembly that Namibia be granted such a status. The Declaration on Apartheid adopted by the sixteenth Assembly special session must be implemented fully, including the retention of the existing sanctions against South Africa.

Prime Minister Jan P. Syse of Norway said the Gulf conflict had demonstrated the urgency of putting the achievement of a global chemical weapons ban at the very top of the agenda. As a traditional contributor to peace-keeping operations, Norway believed that their potential, combined with diplomacy, must be further developed. He expressed support for the Soviet proposal for a standing international military force under United Nations control to deter future acts of aggression.

The Assembly also heard general debate statements by the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, Gabon, Oman, Norway, Greece, Comoros and Cuba.

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The Security Council this afternoon voted unanimously to extend the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) by two months, to 30 November.

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In adopting resolution 671 (1990), the Council also requested that the Secretary-General submit before that date a report on his further consultations with the parties involved about the future of the Observer Group, together with his recommendations on the matter.

In his report on UNIIMOG for the period 23 March to 21 September, the Secretary-General stated that the Group's operations changed significantly when Iran and Iraq began to withdraw to internationally recognized boundaries on 17 August.

On that date, the Group began to supervise, verify and confirm the withdrawal of all forces to internationally recognized boundaries, to monitor the cease-fire there and, through negotiations, to prevent any change in the status quo, pending negotiation of a comprehensive settlement.

The Secretary-General, having consulted with both Iran and Iraq and obtained their agreement, reported that the two-month period would permit the Group to complete its tasks related to the withdrawal of all forces to the recognized boundaries and allow time for the parties and the Security Council to judge whether there was a continuing requirement for an impartial third party to monitor the cease-fire.

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The World Summit for Children, to be held this weekend at United Nations Headquarters, will mark the first time that leaders from around the world have met for a single common purpose in an effort to put children high on the agenda of the 1990s. Organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Summit is the largest gathering of Heads of State or Government ever to take place at Headquarters.

James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, said at a press briefing yesterday that the world was "on the eve of a great moment in history", when more than 70 Heads of State or Government would gather to address the problems of children throughout the world. The Co-Chairmen of the event would be Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada and President Moussa Traore of Mali.

The meeting would not be a United Nations or a UNICEF event, Mr. Grant pointed out, but had been convened by six Governments: those of Sweden, Pakistan, Egypt, Canada, Mali and Mexico. They had appealed to the Secretary-General for the use of Headquarters facilities and had obtained the use of UNICEF staff as the secretariat for the meeting.

Thérèse P. Sévigny, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, said at the briefing that last year's Convention on the Rights of the Child had so far been ratified by 43 States. Some countries were expected to sign that instrument during the Summit meeting, and efforts were under way to bring the number of ratifications to 50 before the weekend.

Mr. Grant, who has earlier characterized the Convention as a "Magna Carta for children", added that, compared with previous ratifications of international human rights treaties, which has taken eight, 10 or 12 years, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was receiving prompt acceptance in many countries.

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DH/735

28 September 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Presidents of Honduras, Chile, Albania, Rwanda, Yugoslavia and Mozambique address General Assembly. Speakers in general debate are Prime Minister of Sweden, Vice-President of Nigeria and Ministers of China, Pakistan, Austria, India and Togo.

+ Security Council to ask Secretary-General to undertake assessment of Jordan's economic problems in connection with trade embargo against Iraq.

+ General Committee recommends that Assembly consider electoral aid to Haiti.

+ Legal Committee cites incidents in Kuwait in discussion of protection of diplomatic and consular missions and personnel.

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Addressing the General Assembly debate this morning, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero of Honduras said a summary of the events of the past year demonstrated that the faith placed in the principles of the United Nations could be justified. His own presence — the first for a Honduran President before the Assembly — was an example of the confidence his own country had in the Organization. At the same time, the dividends of peace must be invested in the best way possible, giving a dignified life to the dispossessed. "This — and only this — will give us peace."

The President of Chile, Patricio Aylwin Azocar, said the issue of human rights occupied a special place in the relationship between Chile and the United Nations. When serious violations of human rights had occurred in his country, the Organization had never relaxed its scrutiny of events. There was a need to ascertain the truth about Chile's past, so as not to keep endlessly alive a constant source of anguish. Towards that end, his Government had ordered the establishment of a Commission on Truth and Reconciliation, with a mandate to investigate serious violations of human rights. The Commission would issue its findings soon.

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Ramiz Alia, Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Albania, said all conflicts among the Balkan States had resulted from the problem of national minorities. In Yugoslavia, the Government of Serbia was pursuing a policy of genocide against Albanians. "The illegal dissolution of the Assembly of Kosovo by Serbia, the occupation of the radio and television centre, the banning of the Albanian press, the dismissal of thousands of Albanians and their replacement by Serbs" were an expression of the Serbian intent to solve problems through violence rather than dialogue. The international community must not remain indifferent to that situation.

Qian Qichen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, said the five documents worked out by the five permanent members of the Security Council constituted a framework for the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian question. He urged the election of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the President of the Supreme National Council, and said the Paris International Conference on Cambodia should be reconvened as early as possible to elaborate the documents. The past year had witnessed political stability and social tranquility in China as well as steady improvement of its economy. "China needed stability and the world needed a stable China", he declared.

Juvenal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda, said the independence of Namibia and the crumbling of the Berlin Wall were the result of the detente which had developed between East and West, and he hoped the dividend realized would be used for the social and economic development of the least advantaged countries, such as those of Africa. He called on the international community to show understanding for those countries' debt problems, the declining prices for their raw materials and deteriorating terms of trade.

The President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, Borisav Jovic, said the new Europe being formed was not taking place without uncertainties, among them the growth of extreme forms of nationalism and intolerance. The President of Albania had openly called for the creation of a second Albanian state on Yugoslav territory. Such an unrealizable intention on the part of Albanian separatists was the reason for their conflict with the Yugoslav authorities. Although the introduction of pluralism and free elections in Yugoslavia had been accompanied by instability, the country was on the right track and the reforms under way would continue to find broad support.

Mozambique's President, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, said the end of war and a return to normal life was the chief priority of his Government. The senseless war of sabotage and destruction had resulted in an economic and social emergency, leaving schools, health centres and economic infrastructures destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people without access to education and health-care facilities. Mozambique's economic recovery programme had been damaged, as had Government efforts to save the lives of millions of Mozambicans threatened by the armed action of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). The Government believed that everything should be done to bring about an honourable and dignified peace. There was no reason for continuation of the war in Mozambique.

Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden, warned of possible future global confrontations between rich and poor, but said it was possible to steer

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events in another direction. The richer countries must show that they took the problems of the poorer nations seriously and that they respected the rights, culture and individuality of other regions. The flow of resources from North to South must be increased. With the birth of some 1.5 billion children in this decade, and with 40,000 children dying each day, this weekend's World Summit for Children provided a unique opportunity to make a commitment to protect the lives of all children.

The Vice-President of Nigeria, Augustus Aikhomu, said the time had come to restructure the United Nations to give Africa a permanent Security Council seat. The solution to the debt problem must be the joint responsibility of debtor and creditor countries, multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks. Because one of Africa's objectives was to promote peace and security, the Economic Community of West African States had sent a peace-keeping force to Liberia. He appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance and called for logistic and other related assistance for the peace-keeping operation. Although recent positive changes in South Africa were welcomed, the racist constitution remained the basic law. Existing sanctions must be maintained until a free, non-racial, democratic and undivided South Africa was established.

The Assembly will meet again at 9:30 a.m. Monday, 1 October. It will first observe the presentation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children, after which it will hear addresses by the Presidents of Mexico and the United States.

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The Security Council has decided to ask the Secretary-General to undertake an immediate assessment of the situation in Jordan with regard to that country's economic problems in connection with the trade embargo against Iraq.

In a letter dated 24 September, the President of the Security Council, Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union), stated that the Council had decided to inform the Secretary-General of the contents of the Sanctions Committee's report on Jordan of 18 September, and to ask him to proceed with the implementation of the Committee's recommendations to undertake immediate technical, financial and material assistance to that country.

The Council President stated that the action had been taken in response to a request by the Jordanian Government for relief under Article 50 of the United Nations Charter from the effects resulting from implementation of the measures required under Council resolution 661 (1990).

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The General Committee this morning recommended that the Assembly include in its current agenda a new item calling for electoral assistance to the Government of Haiti. That item was proposed by Belize on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

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Under a proposed draft resolution, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in co-operation with regional organizations and Member countries, to provide assistance in the observation and verification of the forthcoming electoral process in Haiti.

The draft would have the Assembly request that a permanent nucleus of some 50 observers arrive in Haiti prior to voter registration, which begins on 5 October, and stay until after the elections, which are scheduled for 16 December.

The Assembly's Legal Committee yesterday took up the question of the security and protection of diplomatic and consular missions and personnel, hearing calls for States to observe scrupulously their obligations in that area. A number of delegates cited Iraq's decision to close diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and to withdraw the immunity of their personnel as a serious violation of international law.

Among those condemning the Iraqi acts, the representative of Finland (on behalf of the five Nordic countries) said Iraq's aggression against Kuwait was the most serious violation of diplomatic and consular protection in the period under consideration. It was unprecedented in recent history and the Nordic countries intended to present a draft resolution on enhancement of the effectiveness of the protection of diplomatic and consular personnel and their premises.

Speaking in exercise of the right of reply, the representative of Iraq said his country had always been keen on maintaining the security of diplomatic and consular missions in its territory. Iraq had notified all States that missions in Kuwait City had become unjustifiable "following the union" and had provided two weeks for their transfer to Baghdad.

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DH/736

1 October 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + President George Bush tells General Assembly that United States does not seek to maintain military forces in Saudi Arabia "for one day longer than is necessary".
- + Presidents of Mexico, Panama, Uganda, El Salvador and Venezuela address General Assembly's fourteenth meeting.
- + Seventy-two Heads of State or Government adopt and sign World Declaration and approve plan to better children's lives.
- + Secretary-General informs Member countries that German Democratic Republic has declared its accession, as of Wednesday, to basic law of Federal Republic of Germany.
- + United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) stops payments for transportation of evacuees in Jordan due to total lack of funds and already high indebtedness.

In his statement before the Assembly this morning, George Bush, President of the United States, asserted that "the annexation of Kuwait will not be permitted to stand. That was not simply the view of the United States, but of every Kuwaiti, the Arab League and the United Nations. It is Iraq against the world", he said.

President Bush emphasized that in the aftermath of Iraq's unconditional departure from Kuwait, he believed there would be opportunities for both countries to settle their differences and for all the States of the region to settle the conflict that divided the Arabs from Israel. "But the world's key task — now, first and always — must be to demonstrate that aggression will not be tolerated or rewarded", he said.

The President of the United States reiterated his country's support for the use of sanctions to compel Iraq's leaders to withdraw immediately and without condition from Kuwait. The United States also supported the provision

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of medicine, and of food for humanitarian purposes, so long as distribution could be properly monitored.

Along with others, he added, the United States had dispatched military forces to enforce sanctions, to deter and, if need be, defend against further aggression. "We seek no advantage for ourselves. Nor do we seek to maintain our military forces in Saudi Arabia for one day longer than is necessary."

President Bush cited changes in the Soviet Union, and the improved relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union as critical to the emergence of a stronger United Nations. When the Soviet Union agreed to condemn the aggression of Iraq, President Bush said, there could be no doubt that four decades of history had been put behind.

He reminded the Assembly that in two days from now -- on Wednesday -- "the world will be watching when the cold war is formally buried in Berlin".

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In his address to the Assembly, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico said detente did not guarantee the end of regional conflicts nor did it encourage development in countries of the South. Never before had there been so much potential for development, he said, but he warned of the dangers posed by new protectionist measures and by their impact on developing countries.

Stressing his Government's commitment to the war on drugs, he said that during his administration alone Mexico had lost more than 100 men in that war and had captured over 20,000 drug traffickers. Yet, the rule of law must prevail in that battle, and Mexico could not allow rights or the sovereignty of States to be violated in pursuing drug traffickers.

Guillermo Endara Galimany, President of Panama, said that "for the first time in 22 years, the people of Panama are legitimately and authentically represented at the United Nations. After outlining some of the problems which he said his Government had inherited from the dictatorship, he declared that Panama had now taken several steps to control its future such as the abolition of the army and the restoration of full freedom of speech and respect for human rights. He expressed the hope that the Assembly would declare a decade on poverty stressing the importance of Panama exercising sovereignty over all its territory. He welcomed the fact that for the first time, a Panamanian citizen, designated by his Government was at the head of the administration of the Panama Canal. The Canal would be managed by Panamanians, he said, but Panama would take into consideration the needs of the world and especially the friendly countries of the hemisphere.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveri, President of Uganda, speaking also on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said that no genuine indigenous middle class had emerged in Africa. Instead, there was the spectacle of a class of middlemen who acted as commission agents for foreign manufacturers and masqueraded as Africa's middle class. The cause of development would be best served by the deliberate encouragement, from within and from without, of the

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emergence of an African force to equal the industrial middle class such as the one that accomplished the transformation of the economies of the developed world.

Africa must devote a greater share of current income to the education of its people, he urged, and he appealed to all Members of the Organization to fully support debt forgiveness and debt-rescheduling proposals, to make available the resources necessary to adequately educate Africa's populations.

He said that the industrial countries needed to pay more than lip service to the doctrines of market economics and he called for free and fair markets for African products.

Alfredo Felix Cristiani-Burkard, President of El Salvador, called on all the Central American countries, including Panama, to meet the challenge not only of an economic, but also of a social and political integration, which would allow for preserving national characteristics while facing the realities of the world. If large blocs of nations were able to unite at new levels of nationality, it would be absurd for Central Americans to be unable to do the same, he said.

Regarding the situation in El Salvador, he stated that peace could not come from the barrel of any gun but must be forged through the political understanding of distinct forces. To that end, the ongoing negotiations between the Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) were of primary importance and should be encouraged.

Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela, said the crisis in the Persian Gulf was proof that East-West detente did not necessarily mean the disappearance of serious international conflicts. He called for an end to a system whereby some Powers believed they had the right or obligation to assume responsibility individually for security in the world. He urged that the United Nations perform that function in the name of international law and that a mechanism be devised to ensure implementation of decisions and sanctions adopted by the United Nations which would encourage States which were attacked or threatened to look to the United Nations for a response, instead of bolstering their security through costly arms races.

He proposed a conference on petroleum under the auspices of the United Nations to confront the political reality of oil, reiterated Venezuela's concern for the impact of excessively high oil prices on the third world countries that were totally dependent on oil imports, and called on the industrialized countries to share in the responsibility for meeting the energy demands of the poorer countries in a stable and permanent manner.

The 72 Heads of State or Government attending the World Summit for Children or their observer representatives this weekend signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, committing themselves to a 10-point programme to protect the rights of children and

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improve their lives. A Plan of Action for implementing the Declaration was also adopted.

The Summit, which was initiated by the Governments of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden, resulted in a call, in the Plan of Action, for concerted national and international co-operation to achieve a series of child-related goals by the year 2000.

The Declaration commits nations to promote the earliest possible ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to a wide-ranging programme concerning such issues as child health, the role of women and the family, reduction of illiteracy and easing the plight of millions of children who live in "especially difficult circumstances" -- as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation, orphans, street children, children of migrant workers, displaced children, victims of disasters and abused, socially disadvantaged, exploited and refugee children.

The Plan of Action for implementing the Declaration calls for concerted national action and international co-operation to strive for the achievement of the Declaration's goals.

In a welcoming address to the participating world leaders, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the summit represented a commitment at the highest level to build a world order that would give priority to the needs of children.

Children continued to be the most vulnerable segment of society, he said, adding that the global economic crisis and poverty denied children the enjoyment of their rights. Conflict, both external and internal, also affected children throughout the world, he said.

In a brief ceremony during this morning's General Assembly meeting, its President, Guido de Marco (Malta), accepted the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a Plan of Action for implementing the Declaration. The Declaration was presented to the President of the Assembly by Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada.

The Secretary-General has informed Member countries of the United Nations that the German Democratic Republic will accede on Wednesday, 3 October, to the scope of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany uniting the two German States as a single State.

The Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Lothar de Maiziere, said in a letter to the Secretary-General (dated 27 September), that with the accession, the prerequisites under international law for continued membership of his country in the United Nations ceased to apply. Consequently, Mr. de Maiziere stated, it would be for the united Germany to remain committed henceforth to the provisions of the United Nations Charter in accordance with the solemn declarations which the two German States had made on 12 June 1973.

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The office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) made an urgent appeal today for direct cash contributions to allow it to transport evacuees from the Jordanian border to Amman. The Agency reported that the situation had deteriorated since its last appeal of 28 September. Due to a total lack of funds and high indebtedness, the High Committee of UNDRO had announced that as of today it would stop payments for transportation of evacuees from transit sites to the airport. The Committee also said that for the same reasons, it would stop purchasing supplementary food for the evacuees.

UNDRO said it required \$8 million per month to transport some 7,000 evacuees per day from the Iraq/Jordan border to Amman. Unless the funds were received, the population of the transit sites would further increase and chartered flights returning evacuees home would be forced to leave with much reduced loads, the Agency said.

United Nations

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Prepared by Central News

DH/737
2 October 1990

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + General Assembly hears addresses by Presidents of the Sudan, Bulgaria, Zimbabwe and Guinea-Bissau. Among speakers in general debate is Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia.
- + Secretary-General is "distressed" to learn about breakdown of cease-fire in Liberia.
- + Security Council to ask Secretary-General to carry out review of scale and deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
- + Secretary-General extends his good wishes to the people of Germany on occasion of unification of the two States.
- + Legal Committee concludes consideration of question of protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

* * *

The first speaker addressing the General Assembly this morning, Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council of the Sudan, said he was worried that the presence of foreign naval forces in the Persian Gulf would push any conflict there beyond its "natural Arab framework of peaceful settlement". His country's position was clear. First, efforts towards a peaceful solution should be continued within an Arab Muslim framework. Second, the Sudan was committed to the respect for and implementation of Security Council resolutions on the crisis. Third, the complicated situation represented a real threat to Arab national security.

Zhelyu Zhelev, President of Bulgaria, reviewed the democratic developments in his country and said that for the first time in his country people felt free to criticize the Communist Party. Although his country still had not adopted a new constitution or organized its economy on free market principles, the process of transition from totalitarian rule to democracy was irreversible, he said.

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For information media—not an official record

Bulgaria supported the resolutions of the Security Council in connection with Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, he said, and was strictly observing the embargo imposed against Iraq, even though Bulgaria was probably the European country most affected by the Gulf crisis.

Also speaking this morning, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, said his Government, which had taken a firm stand in rejecting the Iraqi aggression, stood with the whole world in opposition to the continued occupation. The amassed Iraqi armed forces along Saudi Arabia's borders exposed the kingdom's security to extreme dangers and threatened international peace and security, he said.

Continuing, he said the presence of sisterly and friendly forces on Saudi territory was a temporary one, "was in response to our request" and was a measure for defence only. It was necessitated by circumstances that were concocted by the ruling regime in Iraq, and would come to an end by the reversal of the circumstances that made it necessary, he declared.

Addressing the Assembly this afternoon, Robert C. Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, urged the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possibilities for ending the Gulf crisis at the earliest possible date.

He said the issue of apartheid still required the continued attention of the international community. He called on South African President F.W. De Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela to "persevere in their search for a peaceful end to apartheid". He also called on the nations of the world to continue to apply sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

Referring to the problems afflicting the world economy, Mr. Mugabe said it was inconceivable that nations could live in peace in a world of such "glaring disparities" as those between North and South.

Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of Guinea-Bissau, speaking on behalf of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), said the 40 million people of the nine countries of the Sahel had been pooling their efforts for the last two decades against the consequences of drought and desertification. The tragedy suffered by the Sahelian people had led to the creation of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) which was attacking the problems of drought and desertification and the related problems of poverty, starvation and illiteracy.

On other issues, he favoured the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and welcomed positive changes that were occurring in Africa, particularly South Africa. He urged that confrontation and violence be ended to permit the establishment of an appropriate climate for negotiation to achieve a non-racial and democratic system in South Africa.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a statement issued today, said he was "distressed" to learn of the breakdown of the recently agreed cease-fire and the intensification of fighting in Liberia. That development had aggravated the suffering of the Liberian people, and was causing enormous human and material losses. The Secretary-General renewed his urgent call for a cease-fire in Liberia and urged all the parties to seek a peaceful solution to the civil war.

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Members of the Security Council have asked the Secretary-General to carry out a review of the scale and deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in order to examine the Force's performance and its functions since its establishment twelve years ago.

The President of the Council for September, Yuli M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union), informed the Secretary-General, in a letter dated 24 September, that Council members during their consultations on 31 July, when they approved of the Secretary-General's report on UNIFIL, had agreed that such information would provide them with a basis on which to assess whether existing arrangements for that Force should be maintained or changed. They had also agreed that the review should be carried out before the expiration, on 31 January, of the UNIFIL's current mandate period.

Mr. Vorontsov emphasized that the Council was mindful of the great benefit that the presence of UNIFIL continued to contribute to Lebanon.

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In a statement issued today on the occasion of German unification -- to become effective at midnight local time -- Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said that 3 October 1990 was a day of truly historic significance. After 45 years of division, the two German States had overcome what had kept them apart, and decided, "in conditions of freedom and democracy", to renew national unity.

The Secretary-General extended his good wishes to the people of Germany for a "peaceful and prosperous future", in which they were "bound to play a role of great importance" in the continued pursuit of peace and well-being in Europe and in the world as a whole.

Strengthened by its unity, Germany would be able to serve the purposes and principles of the United Nations with even greater distinction and involvement, the Secretary-General stated.

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Iraq's suspension of diplomatic immunities and privileges in Kuwait and its attacks against missions and representatives in that country were cited

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this morning as the General Assembly's Legal Committee concluded its consideration of the question of protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Among the speakers, Nasser Al-Sabeeh (Kuwait) said the Iraqi aggression against his country had also struck at diplomatic and consular missions, turning diplomats into hostages. There were no historic precedents for that action since the signing of the Vienna Conventions.

Liao Jincheng (China) said the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions was the foundation of the international system and was essential for maintaining normal international relations. In order to enhance the security of diplomats and consular officials, he continued, China had tightened entry and exit formalities. Experience had shown that those measures were effective in preventing violence against diplomatic and consular representatives.

Speaking for the United States, Carolyn Willson said many diplomatic missions in Kuwait had been forced to close as a result of Iraqi harassment, and those still operating functioned under the worst circumstances, cut off from utilities, unable to venture from their embassies and generally in a state of perpetual fear. Diplomats accredited to the legitimate Government of Kuwait had been taken hostage. United States representatives were abused and mistreated. The world community must reiterate with one voice that those acts of aggression must cease.

For the Soviet Union, Dmitriy V. Bykov said that under international law, host countries had a responsibility for the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and personnel. The Assembly had called for effective measures to strengthen the security of missions and staff and to prohibit any acts of violence against them. His country strictly complied with those obligations, but many States, including his own, had reported violations of their missions abroad.

Referring to the actions of Iraq, he expressed hope that Iraq would "heed the voice of the entire international community" and act to restore the legitimate legal order in Kuwait.

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United Nations

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DH/738
3 October 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + President of Romania addresses General Assembly. Among addresses in general debate are those of Prime Ministers of Vanuatu and Samoa. Assembly also hears statement by Permanent Representative of Germany on occasion of unification.
- + Secretary-General presents Peruvian Government's general programme for economic recovery to donors meeting and makes appeal to international community for aid.
- + Foreign Ministers of China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States welcome "firm and decisive" role played by United Nations and the good offices of Secretary-General regarding Persian Gulf crisis.
- + Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development says developing countries hit by oil price rise should be compensated on concessional terms.

The President of Romania, Ion Iliescu, said this morning that Romanians now understood the dangers of isolation and "our former tendency to surround ourselves with a barbed wire fence of false ideas".

"Nothing is more important than freedom", the President said, as he addressed the General Assembly. Unfortunately, such values had not yet been truly implanted in Romania's political and social life, he said, adding: "The only hope we have is in the fortitude of the Romanian people, its commitment to freedom and democracy. Starting everything anew, we know how difficult it will be to cope with all these situations, but we are determined to win."

The Romanian President said the unity of the two Germanys today was "the end of the Second World War and its aftermath". He stressed that the Eastern European countries needed the financial support of the industrialized world.

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After President Iliescu's address, the Assembly recognized the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany, which took effect at midnight, Tuesday, 2 October.

On the occasion of the unification, Hans Otto Brautigam, of the Federal Republic of Germany, said that when his country was admitted to the United Nations 17 years ago, its political objective had been "to work for a state of peace in Europe in which the German nation will recover its unity in free self-determination". That goal had now been achieved. German unity was the result of a peaceful democratic process in which the entire German nation had exercised its right of free self-determination. Germany, he stated, "has no territorial claims whatsoever against other countries, nor will it have any in the future. It will confirm the existing frontier with Poland in a treaty binding under international law".

Speaking in the general debate, Tofilau Eti Alesana, Prime Minister of Samoa, said "nuclear testing in the Pacific and elsewhere must stop immediately". Fifteen years of protest by the peoples of the Pacific against nuclear testing on Mururoa Atoll had been ignored by one country, which had embarked on a testing programme which, to date, included more than 100 nuclear explosions.

Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, who spoke on behalf of the member States of the South Pacific Forum, also stressed the issue of the testing of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific and asked why the region continued to be the site for testing nuclear devices now that the cold war had ended. He cited the planned destruction of chemical weapons at Johnston Atoll as another of his concerns, and he expressed hope for the continuation of constructive dialogue with the United States on that situation.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, at a donors meeting today on economic assistance to Peru, said the Government of Peru had requested the co-operation of the United Nations in an effort to mobilize adjustment measures to correct the economic and social situation of the country, which had worsened during the last years.

The Secretary-General said that Margaret Anstee, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as his personal representative on Peru, had worked with the Peruvian authorities to strengthen international co-operation with the new Government.

He said Peru's Prime Minister, Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, had presented a general programme for that country's economic and social recovery to the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the hope that the international community would assist in realizing that programme.

The social programme of emergency and development had two phases, the Secretary-General said. The first phase, which ended in December, was aimed

(more)

at reducing the negative effect of the stabilizing measures among the poorest in Peru. In spite of the Government's efforts there was still a gap of \$100 million to cover its cost, he said.

The second phase would require \$300 million a year and was expected to create new job opportunities and better social services for those who were not integrated in the economic life.

* * *

The five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States -- have transmitted to the Council a statement made by their countries' Foreign Ministers following their meeting on 28 September with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In the statement, the Foreign Ministers -- Qian Qichen (China), Roland Dumas (France), Eduard Shevardnadze (Soviet Union), Douglas Hurd (United Kingdom) and James A. Baker III (United States) -- welcomed the "firm and decisive" role played by the United Nations Security Council and the good offices of the Secretary-General regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

They reaffirmed their support for the Council and re-emphasized their commitment to seek together, in full compliance with its resolutions, a peaceful solution of the crisis.

The Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of a further development of the ability of the Security Council to respond quickly to challenges to international peace and security. They reaffirmed their determination to continue to work together and with the other members of the Council as well as in co-operation with the Secretary-General for the prevention and resolution of international conflicts. They also expressed their readiness to participate in future meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers, should the need arise again.

* * *

The economic consequences of the crisis in the Persian Gulf area are expected to be at the core of the discussions of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), whose thirty-seventh session began on Monday, 1 October, in Geneva.

This autumn session, which ends on 12 October, will thoroughly consider the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system and areas of uncertainty as highlighted by the Gulf crisis.

The other major issues before the Board are the agenda, venue and dates of UNCTAD VIII -- the eighth Trade and Development Conference since 1962 -- which will take place next year.

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Addressing the Board today, the UNCTAD Secretary-General, Kenneth Dadzie, said developing countries hit by oil price rises should be compensated on concessional terms. That compensation should be additional to existing resources and not tied to adjustment programmes, even though adjustment programmes should be pursued with vigour.

The UNCTAD Secretary-General also stressed the need to counter speculation by bringing into play the strategic petroleum reserves held by the members of the International Energy Agency.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/739

4 October 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + General Assembly hears addresses by Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and of Liechtenstein.
- + President of General Assembly "appeals" to Non-Aligned Movement to seek consistency in its beliefs and practice of fundamentals.
- + Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky of the Soviet Union and Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton of the United States present joint United States-Soviet statement to correspondents.
- + Czechoslovakia says its economy's estimated \$2 billion overall loss per year as result of trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait threatens successful transition to principles of a market economy.

* * *

Arthur N.R. Robinson, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, addressed the General Assembly this morning, saying that together with its fellow Caribbean Community countries, the Organization of American States (OAS) and with other United Nations Members, his country continued to participate in the effort to bring about democratic change in Haiti.

His own Government had recently been imperiled by a group of fanatics claiming divine inspiration, he said, who shot their way into Parliament and held the Prime Minister and other members of the Government at gun point, "while its leader proclaimed a new government without a single, intelligent clue as to what to do thereafter". His country had been able to overcome the peril without external intervention, but he expressed gratitude to those countries which responded to the crisis by sending food and other essential supplies.

In his statement, Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, noting that his country, as a new Member, was participating in the general debate for the first time, outlined priorities in its foreign policy. He said a small country such as his aligned itself with those countries which sought to settle disputes peacefully and to uphold the rule of law.

(more)

Questions concerning peace, security, disarmament and human rights could not, however, be resolved by solutions that were related solely to Europe. "The path towards a better future shall not become the private path of a privileged section of our community of States", he said. "In view of the favourably developing climate of co-operation between East and West, let us not lose sight of the equally important dimension of the North-South relationship, and of the co-operation with countries forming the major part of our world community."

* * *

Addressing the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement today, the President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), said views which relegated the role of the Movement to a "simple negative reaction to an international system" were doing injustice to the far-reaching ideas and objectives of its founding fathers.

The Non-Aligned Movement could have a vital role to play regarding the crisis in the Gulf, the Assembly President stated. Through its traditional role in the United Nations, and particularly the General Assembly, the Movement could seek to ensure the necessary combination of firmness, humaneness and consensus which must accompany all action by the international community.

Touching on the question of Palestine, Mr. de Marco said the Non-Aligned Movement had long insisted that progress on the issue of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a homeland of their own, lay in the convening of a Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices.

On another issue -- efforts by the Movement to promote an effective North-South dialogue -- Mr. de Marco said the traditional role of the Movement had given only meagre results, adding that the gap between rich and poor was rightly seen by many as the real security threat of the future.

He appealed to the Movement to seek consistency in its beliefs and in the practice of fundamentals which, in his view, included respect for the sovereignty and independence of all nations, and a commitment to stand by any country, any people, whose territory was threatened or deprived. Mr. de Marco also cited a complete identification with the cause of the poor, with those subjected to discrimination and with the cause of the suffering world as part of such beliefs.

* * *

At a press conference today at Headquarters, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Petrovsky, and the Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs of the United States, John Bolton, discussed the joint statement issued yesterday by their Governments.

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Mr. Bolton said last year's joint news conference given by the two countries -- the first ever given by them at the United Nations -- had been held to make public the joint resolution which their delegations then introduced in the General Assembly together with a number of other co-sponsors. That resolution was the first jointly sponsored by the two in the history of the General Assembly.

Since that time, Mr. Bolton said, a number of developments had deepened and broadened their co-operation in United Nations matters, among which was the successful conclusion of a framework agreement on Cambodia among the five permanent members of the Security Council. He also cited work towards a settlement of the question of Afghanistan, and the nine resolutions regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as well as the forty-fifth anniversary of the Organization as reasons for issuing another statement at the Ministerial level.

The two countries had been co-operating on the goals which were set out in the statement, Mr. Bolton said. They included the strengthening of United Nations peace-keeping efforts, the establishment of a new responsibility in the Organization, encouraging the trend away from rhetorical excess towards efforts to deal pragmatically with the major issues, and the payment of contributions to the United Nations regular budget.

Mr. Petrovsky said he considered the statement by the two countries to be very important, especially on the question of responsibility of the Member States to change their methods of work. This was the first time that the anniversary of the Organization was celebrated by statements which provided an agenda for practical actions. He also considered it very important that the joint statement pointed out as a major factor the administration and management of the whole United Nations family, particularly its budgets. Both countries had now recognized their responsibility to pay their assessment promptly, Mr. Petrovsky said.

* * *

The Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia, Eduard Kukan, in a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 2 October, has stated that his country's economy will suffer an estimated overall loss of \$2 billion per year as a result of the trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait.

That amount includes the freezing of outstanding claims against Iraq, an increase of oil prices and an estimated internal impact on the Czechoslovak economy.

Mr. Kukan said in the letter that at a time when his country was "following the path of democratic social transformation and fundamental economic reforms", the increasing losses in connection with the sanctions against Iraq, imposed "a threat" to the successful transition to the principles of a market economy.

Czechoslovakia expected that the Sanctions Committee would work out and submit to the Security Council "in a very short time" recommendations that would help partially to eliminate "in a concrete manner" the losses of the most effected countries, Mr. Kukan said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/740
5 October 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Prime Ministers of Ukraine and of Swaziland address General Assembly. Iraq among speakers in general debate.
- + Secretary-General urges Government of Sudan to lift ban on United Nations relief flights to southern region.
- + Office of United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) examines worsening situation in Liberia.
- + "Good Defeats Evil" sculpture unveiled in United Nations garden.

* * *

Addressing the General Assembly today, the Prime Minister of the Ukraine, Vitali A. Masol, stated that in the aftermath of the Chernobyl tragedy, his country had a stake in the efforts to formulate a global strategy for survival at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.

He said that his Government was co-operating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with other countries to set up an international research centre in the Chernobyl zone. The Ukraine called on the world community to support the Chernobyl disaster relief programmes.

Obed Mfanyaba Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland, said the successful completion of the independence process of Namibia had given a strong impetus to the momentum for peace in other areas of southern Africa.

He stressed the importance of the southern African region rejecting the use of violence as a means of resolving political differences. Peace and political stability should be allowed to prevail so as to enable the region to fully exploit its vast potential for economic development. He also expressed his country's deep concern about the conflict in Mozambique, which had brought more than 50,000 refugees into Swaziland, and strained his country's limited capacities in land, housing and employment.

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Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tariq Aziz, the acting Chairman of the delegation of Iraq, Sabah Talat Kadrat, said that the "Western imperialist alliance under the leadership of the United States" was conducting a large-scale campaign of disinformation on a number of issues.

Mr. Kadrat outlined those issues which, he said, included the fact that the United States and its Western allies were obliterating any awareness of the events that had led to the present situation — that "Britain undertook to sever Kuwait from Iraq" in 1913.

He added that King Hussein of Jordan had sought to convene on 4 or 5 August a summit meeting to be attended by Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan to deal with the Gulf situation within the framework of the usual Arab mechanisms. Two days after the scheduled date of that meeting, American forces landed in the Arabian peninsula. That made it clear that it was the United States which "put the Arab mechanisms out of action and decided to take control of the political situation".

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In a press release issued today at Headquarters, it was said that the Sudanese authorities are expected to lift immediately the ban on United Nations flights to the southern part of the country.

The press release added that emergency relief operations in the Sudan had figured prominently during meetings which took place this week at Headquarters between Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and General Omer Hassan Ahmed Bashir, Chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council.

The Secretary-General expressed concern over the continued intensified fighting in the southern region, including air attacks, which had severely impeded relief efforts. He urged the Sudan Government to lift the ban on United Nations relief flights to the area so that distribution of supplies could be resumed and that all agreed "corridors of tranquility" be re-opened.

At a follow-up meeting between the Sudanese delegation and the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, the Foreign Minister of the Sudan announced that the ban would be lifted immediately.

The Minister said that the Sudanese Government was anxious to ensure that humanitarian aid reached all of the affected population. In this respect, he recalled President Bashir's statement to the Children's Summit last week in which he declared a period of tranquility until the end of the year to allow for the vaccination of all children in the areas of conflict. The President had also suggested a permanent cease-fire, if the rebels accepted, while negotiations for peace continued.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) held an informal meeting yesterday in Geneva to examine the worsening situation in Liberia. The meeting was attended by officials from donor countries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations who were told that more assistance was required.

The Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations for Liberia, Michael Heyn, told participants that the crisis was having acute repercussions on Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Over 4 million people were now directly affected, he said, including some 500,000 refugees and displaced persons, and their host population of 1.5 million. Within Liberia itself some 2 million people continued to be exposed to untold suffering from the armed conflict and devastated economy.

Mr. Heyn said appeals by UNDRO for \$4.5 million had yet to evince a notable measure of support from the donor community. He said UNDRO staff were currently assisting the World Food Programme with the monitoring of food distribution in Guinea and Sierra Leone. As soon as the security situation permitted, they would be returning to Liberia.

* * *

A formal ceremony was held in the United Nations garden today to unveil the sculpture entitled "Good Defeats Evil". The 40-ton, 39-foot-high bronze sculpture was presented to the United Nations by the Government of the Soviet Union to commemorate the 1987 signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles (INF Treaty), and in celebration of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Composed of parts of actual United States and Soviet missiles, the colossal work depicts St. George, one arm raised, as he drives a lance through the dragon's head. The dragon in the Soviet sculpture is not the mythological beast of early Christian tradition, but rather the symbol of nuclear war.

The monument to peace was created by Soviet artist laureate Zurab Tsereteli.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/741

8 October 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council continues discussion of situation in occupied Palestinian territory in view of reported events of violence in Jerusalem.
- + Secretary-General expresses "grave concern" and "shock" at violence and bloodshed in Old City of Jerusalem; cites dangers of stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- + Security Council asks Secretary-General to respond positively to request by Haiti for assistance in elections.
- + General Assembly hears address by Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- + Budgetary Committee hears statement by Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

The Security Council met this afternoon to continue discussion of the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, in view of the events of violence and bloodshed which were reported earlier today. The Council began the consideration of the situation in that area last Friday, at the request of Yemen.

The permanent observer of Palestine said it was surprising that the Council "had rejected every single appeal by the Palestinian people" to provide international protection because of "one single member using a dictatorial draconic power" that prevented the Council from discharging its duties. He said the Palestinian people would like to see the Council move, to provide international protection and to act as resolutely as in other cases regarding respecting and carrying out decisions of the Council.

The representative of Israel said today's incident came to prove that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had no qualms or inhibitions to exploit the shedding of blood to further its goals. The attack, which injured

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20 Jewish worshippers, was very well organized, being a complete surprise with no prior provocation or warning. The Israel police and border guards rushed to the scene and tried to repel the rioters with rubber bullets and tear gas, and used live ammunition as a last resort in the face of clear and immediate danger to the lives of the worshippers and the police. He expressed Israel's shock and sorrow at the loss of lives and the injuries on all sides.

Among those making statements on Friday, the observer for Palestine said the question of Palestine was the root of the current tensions in the Gulf area and in Lebanon. However, the Council's many resolutions on the subject had not been implemented because of the double standards of the United States. He called for a single criterion for implementing such resolutions so that the Israeli practices in violation of Palestinians' rights could be brought to an end.

The representative of Yemen said that while the recent events in the occupied Arab territories might not seem important by comparison with the Gulf crisis, the Council now faced a test of its credibility. He planned to submit a draft resolution concerning the need to implement all of the Council's resolutions.

The representative of Israel said the PLO had many motives for convening the session, with not one of them justified by objective criteria. Diverting attention from its open alliance with Saddam Hussein's aggression was the first motive for the PLO's "headlong rush" to the Security Council. The second motive was its tradition of convening the Council as a prelude to the Assembly's November debates on the Middle East. Israel had as much to do with the maelstrom in the Gulf as the hot weather in Kuwait City.

* * *

A United Nations official said today at Headquarters that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had learned with grave concern of the violence which erupted today in the Old City of Jerusalem near holy sites sacred to both Muslims and Jews. According to initial press reports, 21 Palestinians were killed and 115 wounded; seven Israelis were also wounded.

The official said that the Secretary-General was shocked and greatly dismayed by the bloodshed, and by what appears to have been an excessive use of force by the Israeli authorities. In the Secretary-General's view, today's incidents were a tragic illustration of the dangers inherent in the stalemate that had too long characterized the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the official said.

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The Security Council has asked the Secretary-General to respond "positively" and "on an urgent basis" to the request of the provisional Government of Haiti for United Nations assistance in the elections scheduled to take place later this year.

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In a letter to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), said that its members hoped that the Assembly would take urgent action so that assistance could be extended in time for the election, which involves among other things, the provision of advisers, observers and experts on electoral security matters, but does not include the use of any United Nations peace-keeping forces.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning began its third week of general debate, hearing an address by the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, James Fitz-Allen Mitchell, who stated that there was a need for political unification in the Caribbean. He stated that no settlement of the Gulf crisis would be possible without resolving the outstanding issues of a homeland for the Palestinians. The attempt to avoid the holding of the international peace conference meant that the United Nations system was being used merely as a convenience to deal with only part of the problem, he declared.

* * *

The General Assembly's Economic and Financial Committee met this morning to adopt its Organization of work for the present session and to hear statements by the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Antoine Blanca, and the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed.

Mr. Blanca said that since the beginning of August, the economic situation had changed. Events in the Gulf had raised the spectre of a slowing of the world economy. In countries with a marked economy, higher inflation and interest rates were expected. Countries that relied on oil imports would be affected and, if the price of oil remained at its present levels, developing countries would have to pay an additional \$20 to \$25 billion per year. The situation of those countries, already affected by debt, would become intolerable.

The international community, he said, should take urgent action to aid the oil-importing developing countries. The United Nations which was playing a central role in the Middle East crisis, must also pay close attention to the economic consequences of that crisis.

Mr. Ahmed said that a routine response to the challenges confronting the world economy would not be sufficient. Given the current speculation and turmoil in the oil market, it might be necessary to release some of the oil reserves held by developed countries.

He said the oil shock would have serious repercussions on the economies of most energy-importing developing countries. The crisis had also displaced large numbers of foreign workers and disrupted trade flows. The Gulf crisis would aggravate many of the long-term issues which faced the international economy, and might help to mobilize the political will to act.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/742

9 October 1990

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Proposal for dispatch of commission of inquiry to Jerusalem is circulated among members of Security Council.
- + Bolivia introduces draft in General Assembly on electoral aid to Haiti; Assembly hears address by Prime Minister of Lesotho.
- + United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East deplores "unprecedented violence" in Israeli-occupied territory.
- + United Nations concludes arrangements for launching expanded special relief programme in Angola to provide humanitarian assistance to drought and war-induced famine victims in that country.

The Security Council this morning heard 12 statements as it continued consideration of the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and was scheduled to meet again later tonight. Meanwhile, a draft resolution calling for the immediate dispatch of a three-member commission to examine the current situation in Jerusalem was circulated among Council members. Sponsored by Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Yemen and Zaire, the draft would have the commission report back by 20 October with recommendations for ensuring the safety of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

In the General Assembly this morning, Bolivia introduced a draft resolution that would request the Secretary-General, in co-operation with regional organizations and Member countries, to provide assistance in the observation and verification of the forthcoming electoral process in Haiti. The draft also calls for a permanent nucleus of some 50 observers to assist with ongoing voter registration in Haiti and stay until after the elections, which are scheduled for 16 December.

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For information media—not an official record

According to the draft, the Assembly would ask for reinforcements at the time of the elections and for assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee for the security of the elections. It would urge the international community and international organizations to increase their technical, economic and financial co-operation with Haiti.

The Assembly this morning also heard an address by Justin Metsing Lekhanya, Prime Minister of Lesotho, who said the international community needed an effective mechanism by which the security of small nations was guaranteed under international law, ensuring not only their protection but also their ability to prosper with a modicum of economic development. Along with international agreements on security guarantees, he called for a mechanism under United Nations auspices through which part of the resources released as a result of disarmament could be devoted to economic and social advancement.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has deplored the level of violence used by Israeli forces against Palestinian protesters during and after the incidents at the Al Haram Al Shareef (Temple Mount) in Jerusalem yesterday, in which at least 21 Palestinians were reported killed.

According to a press release issued by the Agency, three more Palestinians were shot dead in the Gaza Strip and West Bank later on Monday when Israeli forces used live ammunition to disperse demonstrators protesting the deaths in Jerusalem.

A statement issued at UNRWA's headquarters in Vienna expressed shock and dismay at the unprecedented level of violence seen in the occupied territory on Monday and called on the Israeli authorities to exercise restraint in handling demonstrations by Palestinians.

"As an international humanitarian Agency responsible for the general welfare of the Palestine refugees, UNRWA deplores the use of deadly force against civilian demonstrators, in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied territory", the UNRWA statement said.

The UNRWA reported that two Palestinians in Gaza, from the Beit Lahia and Jabalia refugee areas, and one youth from Deir Amman refugee camp in the West Bank were shot dead by soldiers during protests Monday afternoon after the Jerusalem killings.

The Agency said 177 Palestinians were wounded by soldiers in the Gaza protests. In Jerusalem, some 150 Palestinians were reported to be hospitalized with injuries suffered in yesterday's clashes.

It said the entire Gaza Strip and large areas of the West Bank were either under curfew or declared closed military areas today, bringing life to a virtual standstill.

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It was announced today at Headquarters that the Government of Angola has endorsed a United Nations draft plan of operations to provide humanitarian assistance to civilian populations in need in the nine provinces currently considered to be the worst affected in the country. The plan, which has been elaborated to reflect all essential aspects of the situation, received the Government's agreement last week.

Yesterday, the plan was accepted also by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) following a meeting in Abidjan between its leader, Jonas Savimbi, and other UNITA representatives and Charles La Muniere, Director of Emergency Programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), acting on behalf of the United Nations.

Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahin A. Farah will return to the Angolan capital on Monday to conclude arrangements for the official launching of the plan.

The plan of operation incorporates a number of basic principles governing the provision of United Nations emergency relief assistance. Among those, the emergency relief programmes must be based on detailed assessments of needs carried out by, or in co-operation with, the United Nations. Also, all international organizations and non-governmental organizations participating in United Nations emergency operations must agree that they will only provide, transport and deliver supplies of a purely humanitarian nature.

In order to facilitate the humanitarian programme, the Secretary-General intends to appoint a Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Angola.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/743
10 October 1990

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + General Assembly ends general debate; adopts resolution on electoral assistance to Haiti; hears statements by Secretary-General and President of Assembly in commemoration of thirtieth anniversary of Declaration of decolonization.
- + Assembly President says that Gulf crisis "inevitably dominated attention of all speakers" during this year's general debate.
- + Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Humanitarian Assistance relating to Gulf Crisis says some 100,000 third country nationals are still to be repatriated from Iran.
- + Statements in Legal Committee emphasize need for prior consent of countries before receiving fact-finding missions.

* * *

The General Assembly concluded today its general debate during which it heard representatives from 155 nations, including 27 Heads of State, 15 Prime Ministers and 86 Foreign Ministers.

Following the statement by the Minister for External Relations of Angola -- the last speaker in the general debate -- the Assembly commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

In a statement on that occasion, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that when the Declaration was adopted in 1960, it constituted a landmark in the application of one of the basic principles of the United Nations -- that of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

In the years that had elapsed since the Declaration was adopted, 59 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, embracing a total population of 140 million people -- most of which were in the Pacific and Caribbean regions -- had been enabled to exercise their right to self-determination, the Secretary-General said.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

He added that the admission of the new State of Namibia, after so many years of bloodshed and suffering, represented a fitting climax to this, the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

The President of the Assembly, Guido de Marco of Malta, said the role played by the United Nations in assisting the people of Namibia in achieving independence had strengthened the determination and commitment of the Organization to uphold the principles of the Charter. He recalled that two years ago the Assembly declared the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Mr. de Marco stressed that an important role in the decolonization process was played by the Special Committee, established in 1961 to monitor the implementation of the Declaration, which had assiduously pursued its assigned task and considered the situation of no less than 46 Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Assembly then adopted a resolution on electoral assistance to Haiti, introduced by Bolivia yesterday. By the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested, in co-operation with regional organizations and Member countries, to provide assistance in the observation and verification of the forthcoming elections. It also called for a permanent nucleus of some 50 observers to assist with ongoing voter registration and the actual elections, which are scheduled for 16 December.

In his concluding remarks at the end of the general debate, the Assembly President, Mr. de Marco, said this years' impressive participation highlighted the importance that the international community attached to the General Assembly.

The crisis in the Gulf had inevitably dominated the attention of speakers during the general debate, he said. Practically all of them demanded the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait in conformity with the Security Council resolutions. At the same time, there was the widely expressed view that efforts for a peaceful outcome to the crisis continued on a collective basis, within the framework provided by the Charter of the United Nations.

Participants in the debate had also looked at the wider regional framework in which the crisis was unfolding, the Assembly President said, adding that there was a blunt rejection of any direct linkage between the invasion of Kuwait and other outstanding issues in the Middle East. It had been recognized that the new high moral standard of action generated by the invasion of Kuwait must be seen to be applicable to other problems of the region, especially to bring about a just and permanent solution to the question of Palestine through the early convening of the long-awaited peace conference.

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The Assembly President said that despite attention to the crisis in the Gulf, most speakers did find time to look back upon the "momentous events" of the past year. Those events included among others the dramatic thrust of Eastern Europe towards liberty and democracy culminating in the unification of Germany as a symbol of a unifying Europe; the steady progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cambodia; the democratization process in Central and Latin America; and the definitive abandonment of super-Power confrontation in the stormy waters off Malta.

At a press conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva today, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance relating to the Gulf Crisis, Sadruddin Aga Khan, informed correspondents about the results of his recent visit to Iran.

He said the Iranian authorities had already welcomed about 50,000 of their own nationals as well as 100,000 third country nationals who still had to be repatriated. The United Nations would have to increase its presence in order to assist Iran in this undertaking. A transit camp in Khoramshahr -- a city on the Iran-Iraq border which had been completely destroyed during the Iran-Iraq war -- would have to be rebuilt, and transport would have to be organized from there.

In response to a question concerning the reported maltreatment of Kuwaitis and third country nationals by Iraq, he stated that in interviews, many of them had described their difficult situation, and the increasing breakdown of law and order as well as the shortages of food and other necessities.

M'Hamed Essaafi, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, said funds were available for repatriation by air, but were not enough to cover the land transport. Furthermore, \$2 million was needed to convert the transit camps into winter camps.

In response to another question concerning the number of third world nationals remaining to be repatriated, Mr. Essaafi stated that about 1 million Egyptians should be added to the figure of 100,000 mentioned by the Sadruddin Aga Khan.

The requirement to obtain a State's prior consent before sending a United Nations fact-finding mission into its territory was stressed this morning as the Legal Committee continued its joint consideration of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and the report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Charter and on Strengthening the Organization's Role.

Other matters discussed included the role of the International Court of Justice, progress made in preparing a draft handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes and the rationalizing of United Nations procedures.

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Among the speakers, Martti Koskenniemi (Finland) commended the Committee's work on rationalizing United Nations procedures. With the completion of its work in that area, new matters should be decided upon for the Committee's consideration. One likely item might be the question of "sanctions management", brought into focus by the current Security Council measures against Iraq. Chapter VIII of the Charter "simply stays silent on several practical matters which are of much significance", he said.

He described three types of problems which might arise: how to address the plight of third country citizens stranded in a State subject to sanctions; what sort of "special economic problems" would entitle countries to consult the Council and what the Council might do to alleviate those problems; and questions concerning the general management of economic sanctions.

David Kornbluth (Israel) said his country supported the view that fact-finding missions must have the consent of receiving States; it was a matter closely related to their sovereignty. Receiving States could only be expected to give their consent if they could be guaranteed that missions would act impartially. Many States had been reluctant to allow fact-finding missions because of concerns over that point.

He emphasized that States had a free choice regarding the method of peaceful settlement which they wished to employ; fact-finding was only one of several means.

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United Nations

Press Release

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General says today's observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners is taking place at "historic juncture".
- + Government of Afghanistan states that recent international developments have created "favourable conditions" for elections under United Nations supervision.
- + Bangladesh says it will suffer losses amounting to \$1.5 billion as result of trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid observed today, at a special meeting at Headquarters, the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

The day marked the twenty-seventh anniversary of the adoption of a General Assembly resolution in 1963, calling on South Africa to release unconditionally all persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for their opposition to apartheid.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a statement delivered by Abdulrahim A. Farah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, said that today's observance was taking place at a historic juncture in South Africa.

Political developments over the past year held promise that more tangible progress would be made in dismantling apartheid, thus removing a major cause for the unjust imprisonment of those who seek an equitable system of government under which the rights of all will be assured.

The Secretary-General said he knew he was expressing the strong hope of everybody present at the meeting that the time would soon come when South Africa would be "transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial society".

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For information media—not an official record

The concern of the General Assembly towards political prisoners and exiles was reflected in the resolution it adopted last month, he said. That resolution had requested him to provide all possible assistance, through United Nations agencies, to facilitate the return of exiles and refugees, and the reintegration of released political prisoners into South African society. He pointed out that consultations had in fact already begun between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the concerned parties.

The Secretary-General reminded the meeting that the agreements reached between the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress (ANC), at their meeting in Pretoria last August, had provided for a plan for the release of ANC-related prisoners and the granting of indemnity to certain groups in a phased manner. He was pleased to have learned yesterday that a further group of political prisoners had been released.

Assembly President, Guido de Marco (Malta), also addressing the special meeting, said that recent changes in the global political climate had had a significant impact on the work of the United Nations. A good illustration of this was the adoption, by consensus, last December, of a historic Declaration by the General Assembly on Apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa.

Mr. de Marco appealed to President De Klerk — who, he said, was contributing to the "advancing dawn in South Africa" — to release all remaining political prisoners. That would be an essential element in the process unfolding in South Africa.

The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, said this year's observance of the Day of Solidarity did not only provide an opportunity to reaffirm the unanimous demand by the international community for the release of all political prisoners and detainees. It was also an occasion to renew solidarity with all South Africans who had sacrificed their life and liberty in the struggle against apartheid and for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic society in South Africa.

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A statement issued by the Government of Afghanistan says that recent developments on the international arena have created "favourable conditions" for holding elections in that country under United Nations supervision.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 9 October, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Noor Ahmad Noor, said that recent events in Pakistan and an analysis of public opinion in that country indicated that present conditions were favourable to democracy and to settling the situation in Afghanistan "through peaceful political means". However, he added, certain Pakistani military extremist circles were trying to mislead the public opinion.

The Afghan Government warned of "the grave danger" of creating another regional crisis, at a time when the world public opinion was concerned with

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the crisis in the Gulf region, and demanded that serious measures be adopted to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

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The Government of Bangladesh has asked for urgent consultations with the Security Council, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to overcoming its economic problems resulting from the trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait.

In a letter dated 9 October, sent by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, A.H.G. Mohiuddin to the Secretary-General, the Government states that the country will have losses amounting to \$1.5 billion. Unless those losses are compensated for, Bangladesh would be forced to curtail its imports drastically. That would affect the Government's ability to implement the structural adjustment import liberalization programme as well as the development programme.

The Bangladeshi Government expressed the hope that donor countries, the United Nations and multilateral agencies would consider rendering all possible assistance to the country to overcome the problems.

A United Nations official said today that seventeen countries had so far invoked Article 50. Those included Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia. Sudan had given note about its intentions to invoke Article 50, but had not yet done so, the official said.

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